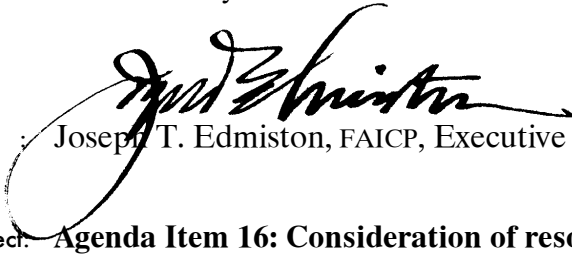


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: December 6, 2004

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 16: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 12 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Project Planning and Design services.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 12 funds in the amount of \$225,000.00 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Project Planning and Design services.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204(c) of Public Resources Code.

Background: The MRCA has submitted a grant application for Proposition 12 funding in the sum of \$225,000.00 for project planning and design services leading directly to the acquisition, improvement, enhancement, or restoration of park, wildlife or natural areas. Planning and design activities will include researching subject properties' natural resources and ownership, negotiations and preparation of purchase agreements, obtaining and reviewing appraisals, title reports, and environmental assessments, mapping and graphics to support acquisitions, and preparation of project plans and improvement plans to ensure adequate and safe public access and protect sensitive natural and cultural resources.

Potential projects that will be pursued with these funds may include areas near or adjacent to units of the State Park system wherever such units may be situated within a local jurisdiction within the Santa Monica Mountains Zone or the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor. Each of the potential projects listed is included on the MRCA's adopted Workprogram, and will achieve the goals set forth in Proposition 12, Article 1, Sections 5096.302(e):

“Continued economic success and enjoyment derived from California’s natural resources depends on maintaining clean water, healthy ecosystems, and expanding public access for a growing state.”

and 5096.303(c):

“Park, open-space, and tree planting projects also improve air quality and decrease congestion by reducing sprawl, improving the quality of life...by providing incentives to reduce development in inappropriate areas.”

The grant would fund the MRCA’s planning, permitting, and administrative activities directly related to the enhancement and restoration of natural lands and the improvement of public recreational facilities within a subset of this list of projects. All of the subject project planning and design activities would be consistent with Article 8, Mountain Resource Program, Section 5096.353 of the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 (Proposition 12).

All land acquisition projects will be with willing sellers, and may include both fee simple title purchases and easements. Land acquisition can be via direct purchase, donation, or dedication. All planning and design activities would be in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA Division 13 - commencing with Section 21000).